

**Public Health Staff Involvement in Lead in School Drinking Water Issues in Seattle-Spring/Summer, 2004**

- 1) What are local health's experiences in assessing health risks associated with drinking water in schools with an emphasis on lead exposures?

Public Health Seattle & King County has relied on consultants who have been hired by the school district to test and monitor the school water and provide risk assessment judgments from that testing. This assessment has been referred to our Epidemiology section for evaluation and comment.

- 2) Are SBOH rules concerning school construction and plan review sufficiently protective of drinking water quality in schools?

There are sections in the School code like WAC 246-366-060 which address plumbing and water supply.

- However, these sections do not address the requirement for schools to complete water quality testing on a routine basis on school plumbing and water fixtures. Schools which are not their own drinking water system are not currently required to conduct drinking water quality tests on portions of their plumbing system to detect corrosion by-products in the water
- 3) Are additional drinking water regulations for schools needed?

A section under WAC 246-366-060 should be added which would require routine monitoring in a school plumbing system to test for corrosion by products, bacteria etc on a routine basis.

- This language would state that whether a school is considered a Group A water system or just a master meter retail customer who purchases water from a Group A water system, what routine testing would be required, and completed under appropriate WA State DOH and EPA procedures and protocols.
- Additionally, this section should mandate that schools must complete remedial actions to bring the plumbing and water from the plumbing into compliance with drinking water standards within a specified time period once the water is discovered and confirmed out of compliance.
- The section should also address what communication is required from the school administrators to parents and students, WA State Department of Health, and local health during the process of testing, and remediation.

- 4) Who should enforce drinking water standards in schools?

The enforcement of drinking water standards in schools should be the responsibility of the WA State Board of Health to the extent that the source water for the school is a Group A water system.

- 5) Summary of participatory activities in support of Lead in Drinking Water issues associated with a variety of schools including Seattle School District.

In support of the Seattle School District and other schools and cities regarding lead in drinking water this past spring/summer we provided the following types of services:

- Reviewed technical reports, water quality data, and other information regarding lead testing in particular schools.
- Reviewed and commented on press releases, parent notification letters, etc
- Participated in two meetings with Seattle School District staff, and others regarding their testing program and results
- Responded by email to requests for information and assistance by Renton and Lake Washington School District.
- Drafted response to complaint about City of Shoreline water regarding the lead issue.
- Prepared draft letter for King County Board of Health Chair on lead testing directed to all King County School Districts.
- Discussed development of a similar letter for Daycare centers with a variety of in house staff.
- Assisted nurse and doctor's offices in questions regarding blood lead testing.
- Arranged for interviews with the press, and responded to reporters, etc.

This work was completed by a variety of staff and management and was estimated to be about 44 total hours of staff assistance.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time</b>
6-2-2004	Written Response to Lindbergh High student on lead and water quality. Discussion With District School Maintenance staff, (Renton School District)	6 hours
6-8-2004	Draft letter of response to concerned citizen on Shoreline water supply and lead exposure (residences etc)	8 hours
5-2004	Discussion with nurse regarding blood lead testing in relation to Seattle School District water testing results	1 hour
6-12-2004	Hilary-writing and sending emails, talking with Seattle School District staff, responding to reporters, arranging for interviews, etc.	8 hours
9-17-2004	Email response to Scott Emry, Lake Washington School District regarding lead testing, action levels, use of bottled water.	2 hours
7-2004	Draft letter for BOH chair for mailing out to all King County School Districts On advisory request for lead testing	2 hours
9-1-2004	Review of newspaper article on Lead scare in two older Kirkland schools	30 minutes
8-X-2004	Review of draft Public Health implications write up by Intertox, Seattle School District consultant.	1 hour
9-2004 and 8-2004	Discussion with Health Staff regarding draft letter to Daycares similar to letter by BOH chair on lead issues with water	1.5 hours
7-16-2004	Review of Status Report for Working Group-Seattle Public Schools, Phase 1 Report on Water Quality Testing in Schools and Associated Facilities	1.5 hours
7-21-2004	Meeting with WA DOH, Seattle School District Staff, Seattle Public Utilities, and Seattle School District consultants on July 16, 2004 testing report, discussion of hot topics including where any resampling will occur, etc	4.5 hours
8-4-2004	Review of summary minutes of Work group consensus on School July 21,2004 Meeting on Hot topics	1 hour
4-23-2004	Review and redraft of letter to Parents for Hamilton School (Seattle School District) on coliform bacteria contamination identified in the lead testing.	2 hours
4-21-2004	Meeting at Seattle School District with DOH, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle School District staff, and their consultant on lead testing, coliform results, etc	5 hours